

Federal hearing focuses attention on Valley water needs

The House Subcommittee on Water and Power convened a congressional field hearing in Tulare to hear testimony on the water needs of the Central Valley.

Seven Central Valley residents, including farm, water and environmental interests were called to testify June 28 during a field hearing at the Heritage Complex. More than 300 citizens also attended the hearing.

At least six members of Congress were on hand to hear from a wide range of water, environment and agricultural experts on the needs of the Central Valley.

The House Committee on Resources headed up legislation to reauthorize a partnership between the state and federal government, called CalFed, to develop and protect water resources in California. While tens of millions of dollars have been spent over the years on environmental restoration projects, only a small percentage has been allocated to water supply.

Following the hearing, Nunes called on Water and Power Subcommittee Chairman Ken Calvert to speed up the process through which new water storage would be built.

Normally, water projects are built only when Congress explicitly votes to authorize them.

Recognizing the rare success in recent years of

getting any new water project approved, Nunes introduced language into a pending House Cal-Fed bill to give water projects more leverage for approval.

More specifically, if approved, the bill would automatically authorize any water project in CalFed deemed feasible.

Additionally, it would give Congress only 120 legislative days to pass a bill disapproving the project.

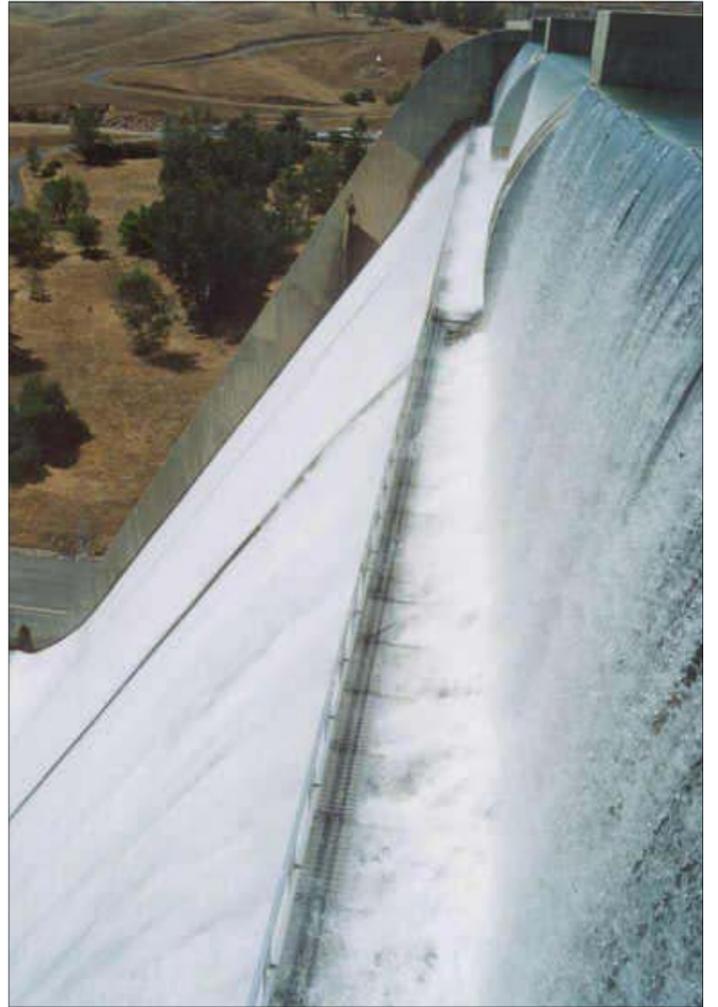
“Providing California with concrete steps toward new surface water storage

will be a great success for all. In the coming decades, the growth in the Valley will only worsen our water crisis,” Mr. Nunes said. “Now is the time to increase our water supply, reliability, and efficiency for the future.”

In other water news, Congress passed a bill that funds the Department of Interior’s energy and water projects, including local funding requests.

In all, the bill included \$15.4 million in funds for projects throughout the 21st Congressional District.

**Now is the time to increase our water supply, reliability, and efficiency for the future.—
Rep. Devin Nunes**



Effort to recruit, retain teachers gains support



Rep. Devin Nunes helped spearhead the passage of the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act — a congressional plan to place

Rep. Nunes meets with officials in Porterville about Head Start funding for a local center.

highly qualified math, science, and special education teachers in the schools where they are needed most.

Mr. Nunes, a former College of the Sequoias board trustee, was a co-sponsor of the bill. The legislation works with the No Child Left Behind Act to make certain the goal of having a qualified teacher in every classroom is met.

“The teacher shortages that schools are facing in the areas of math, science, and special education are real, and they are staggering,” Mr. Nunes said. “Many students are not receiving a proper, well-rounded education because there simply are

not enough teachers. When students receive anything less than a full education, that’s a crisis, and it’s time Congress acted.”

The law expands on a program created five years ago, which offered loan forgiveness to qualified teachers who commit to teaching in a low-income school for five years.

The House of Representatives is strengthening education for all students. By recruiting qualified teachers through added incentives, we will improve our schools and fulfill America’s promise for our children.

Unsolicited email, such as advertisements or chain letters, are the ‘junk mail’ of the information age.

Email has brought us many advantages. It’s easier to stay in touch with friends and family. It helps businesses run more efficiently. But, unfortunately, like unwanted calls from telemarketers, email has delivered an annoyance. It’s called spam, and it’s flooding our inboxes.

“These unwanted messages are a burden to consumers by slowing down their Internet connections, cripple businesses by infringing on work time, and threaten children and unsuspecting individuals with misleading titles,” said Rep. Devin Nunes, who represents Fresno and Tulare counties.

Spam email has exploded from the occasional

nuisance to a serious problem. Fraudulent email headers disguise the source of the emails, often resulting in pornographic website links being sent

registering your telephone number on telemarketing do-not-call lists.

This much-needed legislation also prohibits the sending of fraudulent spam, and grants law enforcement officials the necessary criminal and civil tools to enforce state com-

puter fraud laws and general fraud laws against spammers. It requires that any commercial email must include: 1) identification that the message is an advertisement; 2) a mechanism to opt-out of receiving future emails; and 3) a valid street address for service of process.

To protect children and cut down on fraudulent email practices, this legislation makes it unlawful to falsify header information or collect addresses from a website and send spam to these unsuspecting email addresses.

Time to cut out spam

to children. Some experts estimate that spam accounts for half of all email—a figure that continues to grow. Service slowdowns and lost productivity caused by spam will cost American businesses an estimated \$10 billion in 2003.

To help deal with this problem, Nunes is supporting the RID Spam Act of 2003 (H.R. 2214). Under this legislation, consumers will be allowed to opt-out of all commercial email. It would work just like going down to your local post office and removing your name from the junk mail lists or